

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE PARISH OF WASPERTON
HELD AT WASPERTON VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 24 APR 17 AT 7:30PM**

Present: M J Metcalfe (Chairman)
Cllr J V Murphy (Chairman of the Joint Parish Council)
Cllr L Caborn (WCC)
Seventeen Wasperton Electors

Minutes.

1 The minutes of the meeting held on 25 Apr 16 were taken as read. There were no matters arising

Report by Chairman of the Joint Parish Council.

2 Cllr John Murphy reported:

2016-2017 has been an incredibly busy year! – 9 routine JPC meetings, numerous Planning meetings, three Annual Parish Meetings several Special Meetings, numerous Working Party meetings and several public “events”. The King George’s Field improvement scheme came to fruition and perhaps demanded just a little less JPC attention however other things surfaced to make great demands on our time and attention.

Difficult financial times continued and the correction we made a couple of years ago, coupled with increasing revenue from the number of new houses in Barford has continued to allow us to produce a balanced budget this year, once again avoiding any increase on your parish element of the Council Tax charges. All this despite a progressive reduction, to zero over three years, of the Concurrent Services support grant and the loss of Council Tax Reduction Rebates. These effects will continue for some time – effectively until we stop adding new houses, so our finances should at least remain secure although increased resident numbers may well lead to an increased demand for services...

All three village halls have this year been supported by JPC grants with £1176 towards general maintenance each and the JPC also gave grant support of £445 towards maintenance of each of the three churchyards. The JPC also awarded £588 to support Barford Scout Hut funds in recognition of its important role providing essential community facilities, in addition to its more conventional role with the uniformed groups.

The King George’s Field scheme, whilst still not finished due to technical and legal issues, was largely complete in time for over 800 people to attend our Celebration Day on Sunday May 1st and then many more came to the royal opening with HRH The Duke of Kent on Wednesday May 4th. All this generated much publicity and visitors came from far and near to try our new facilities. We became a victim of our own success and parking became an issue and managing the amount of rubbish deposited in our litter bins became a challenge too. Working with neighbours and the WCC Highways we came up with plans to encourage more considerate parking and they have largely been successful, especially as the “honeymoon period” began to fade.

Prior to opening we were having problems and extra drainage installation was urgently needed if we were to lay the safety surface in time for the opening. The extra bill was large and our funding was getting stretched so we had to beg for extra funding and thankfully Barford Community Charity was able to help and provided an extra £10,000 towards the additional funding needed.

Once opened, it became apparent that “dog fouling” was a bit of a problem and an informal scheme of marking with neon-pink was embarked upon to warn people of the risk but most importantly to enable us to quantify the problem. Thankfully after the first few weeks the problem seemed to reduce and is now at relatively low levels, although Barford Sports Club and the JPC is still vigilant in watching - and

identified offenders will be challenged and if appropriate reported on to the Dog Wardens for further action.

Extra funding was raised from National Grid and from Warwick Rural West Community Forum and this enabled us to instruct Outdoor Gym equipment in the autumn. Donors also came forward and kindly funded extra benches and seats completing provision around the field.

In October, we were finally able to take on a lease for the Rectory Paddock. This will be used as an occasional car park for school/church/KGF/village events and will also provide a secure pathway from the school to KGF for school-day BUFC use.

Maintenance of the whole site is now a mixture of contractors and voluntary efforts and this combination saves several thousand pounds worth of parish Council Tax every year and also ensures that we take a very close interest in the condition of our field – a win-win situation, we think.

The WDC **New Local Plan** was found to be unsound at its examination in public last year and after some debate was “suspended until May 2016” whilst housing numbers were reviewed with particular reference to Coventry overspill and windfall sites accounting. This necessitated a further review of available sites and in the latest proposals Barford was expected to take a further 75 houses – split over two sites (off Wasperton Lane <H47> and inside the Barford Bypass <H48>) in addition to those previously proposed or granted permissions through the planning system. When the examination was resumed an aggressive proposal from Gladmans, on behalf of St John’s College, suggested increasing H47 up to a total of 135 houses. Thankfully the JPC submission on the revised Draft Plan almost predicted the Inspector’s recommendations – remove H47 (hopefully finishing any chance of the Gladman proposal), fewer houses south of Warwick and Leamington, more within Greenbelt areas and nearer to Coventry. H48 remained in the plan and has now become a live planning application. The consultation on the Inspector’s modifications will run until May 5th and then the Inspector, after considering any comments, will finalise his recommendations which should then come back to WDC for adoption.

Barford Neighbourhood Development Plan - after largely favourable findings by the Inspector and very modest changes the BNDP was taken to Referendum on October 6th 2016 and was approved by 97% of those who voted on a 45.2% turnover. The plan was then promptly “made” by WDC and is now a part of planning law, HOWEVER, its powers are limited until we have the New Local Plan finalized and a 5-year land supply in place, but it still carries a small amount of weight.

County Minerals Plan - Wasperton Hill Farm and Glebe Farm sites 4 and 5 continue to be included in the WCC Pre-Submission Draft Mineral Plan and after a further round of consultation over the Dec-Jan period we wait to see what finally goes to new WCC after the May 2017 elections. If WCC adopts that plan then it will go to a Public Inquiry and there may be further chance to challenge the proposals. Any challenge at that stage is likely to be much more demanding and expensive and hence the recent launch of a Sand & Gravel Action Group to raise funds and lead the battle.

Barford Village Green has had a make-over recently with the installation of a bonded rubber mulch surface around and under the play equipment and bordering much of the pathway near the Barford Village Shop. This will make the area much cleaner to use and improves the appearance greatly. The project was funded by Barford Village Shop and WDC Rural/Urban Fund.

Land around Barford House - a scheme submitted for eight houses on the southern portion was approved last year and has since been sold on to Kendricks who have applied for some variations and started work. There has been considerable concern as all trees on the front of the site have been removed despite some being retained in the original plans – WDC have not taken enforcement action as the trees have been deemed of “poor” quality and others will be planted within the scheme. The entire frontage wall was removed, contrary to permissions – part was to be retained on heritage grounds and the rest set back for visibility. WDC are enforcing reinstatement of the wall.

There has been great progress on repairs to the walls fronting Wellesbourne Road, slowly but surely the brickwork has been replaced, though to Inson's Yard. We look forward to the cappings being replaced in the near future.

The **Sherbourne Nurseries** site, Nursery Meadow, built by Taylor Wimpey is now largely complete and many new folk, and some we already know, are settling in well. Some have already erected PD extensions and conservatories and one has a current planning application for a significant extension. At last the Heritage Group telephone box has re-appeared on Wellesbourne Road after a couple of winters at the back of the site.

The land between **Wilkins Close** and the river is now being built by Spitfire builders with 25 houses of various sizes and tenures. Regrettably bad organization by the developer and lack of appropriate conditions being imposed by WDC meant that the early part of the build caused traffic chaos with workers' vehicles parked all over the road and delivery lorries queuing over the bridge, often on the wrong side of the road. Thankfully things have improved with some parking now available on site but we will see how it goes as they eventually work-out of the site.

Proposals to build more houses, accessed only via Bremridge Close has added to the already real concerns about traffic and safety at the Bremridge/Wellesbourne Road junction. Issues are made worse by vehicles from or visiting Country Car and those related to Barford Exchange. Vehicles are frequently parked up to junctions and often on the pavements adding to the chaos. Country Car are already co-operating with us and it is hoped that we can get support from Barford Exchange and WCC to see how the situation might be improved for all.

In addition, as many of the extra houses are going west of Wellesbourne Road there is some pressure to look at a signalized crossing for safety, especially during the peak morning and evening traffic flows.

In February, Sherbourne was inundated with an encampment of **Gypsies and Travellers**, occupying land off Watery lane and adjacent to the Sherbourne Bypass roundabout. Combined actions from WCC, WDC, Police and Highways England eventually encouraged them to "move on" but not before considerable damage had been done on and around the site, in addition to causing considerable alarm to local residents. This encampment and several others in the area have spurred the authorities on to be more prepared for future events and also WDC has proposals in hand to make many of their sites less accessible to such encampments. This may displace the Travellers and make other non-WDC more vulnerable/attractive so views are being taken on how best to protect our vulnerable sites and prevent future issues.

Councillors have served their electors extremely well, working as a strong team with James Johnson our excellent Clerk/RFO. Vacancies do still exist for Barford councilors and we will be looking to co-opt others as time moves on. Meanwhile, once again, the bulk of the work has had to fall on the stalwarts able to make meetings and dedicate considerable amounts of extra time to pursue our various activities and other commitments. Over the last two years and particularly the last year this effort has been strongly supplemented by many individuals supporting the JPC through Barford Sports Club in both official and volunteer capacities. Many thanks to all for their input.

JVM
05/04/2017

Councillor attendance records 2016-2017:

	Meetings	Present	%
Cllr Mrs W Barlow	9	9	100%
Cllr R Clay	9	9	100%
Cllr H Gadsden	9	5	56%
Cllr J V Murphy	9	9	100%
Cllr Mrs A Gordon	9	9	100%

Cllr T Merrygold	9	9	100%
Cllr Mrs R Newsome	9	8	89%
Cllr M J Metcalfe	9	6	67%
Cllr N F J Thurley	9	8	89%
Cllr J T Wright	9	8	89%
Cllr A B Rhead	9	3	33%
Cllr J M Hawkesford	9	6	67%
Cllr Mrs K E Thomson	9	6	67%
Cllr S Morgan	9	4	44%

Comments by Wasperton Councillor

3 Cllr Wright drew attention to:

- Some events at Sherbourne Park create a noise nuisance for Wasperton residents. This had been reported to WDC Planning Enforcement and is being monitored.
- Traffic conditions locally (the A429 and Village Road, Wasperton) continue to worsen with increases in volume, vehicle sizes and speed.
- The poor road markings at the roundabout on the M40 at Junction 15 (which had been reported to Highways England) had had some improvement, but remained incomplete.
- Parish councillors have no party-political affiliation.

Report by District Councillor

4 Cllr Phillips reported:

I want to report back on three major initiatives within Warwick District over the last year.

The first one is the Local Plan Examination In Public. With the Inspector having previously indicated he would reject the original proposal as being “unsound”, WDC made amendments to the original plan, largely to meet the “unmet need” of Coventry. In total more than 4,000 houses were added to the Plan and it through its Examination In Public in Autumn 2016. The Inspector has now advised the Council of some suggested amendments – mostly of deletions of sites within the Green Belt, including deleting H47 land south of Wasperton Lane in Barford. Currently these amendments are out for public consultation until the 5th May and all residents are welcome to put their comment in. Full Council will probably be asked to approve the revised Local Plan in September 2017. I do have some specific comments as it relates to Barford later on.

The second major initiative is the investment of £15 million in upgrading the St Nicholas Park and Newbold Comyn Leisure Centres. Both Centres were getting towards the end of their useful life and this new investment will provide modern leisure centres meeting the needs of the communities for the next 30+ years. They will also be managed by a company called “Everyone Active”, who have successfully tendered to run the centres for the next 10 years, and who will be very attuned to meeting the needs of the community to remain healthy and fit. Facilities in Kenilworth will be for review later, probably in 2018.

Thirdly: There have been considerable issues around unauthorised encampments by travellers. Extensive camps over Christmas, the New Year and since then notably at our neighbours in Sherbourne, have led to considerable public disquiet about the mess left behind. We have been working with the Police & Crime Commissioner, Philip Seccombe, to develop a Countywide approach as to how to handle these sites, but in the meantime as a District Council we have agreed to invest £180,000 into hardening our public spaces to make these areas less prone to these encampments.

In respect of Barford this has been a year dominated by planning matters. Firstly we have had the

WCC minerals strategy plan, which I will continue to lobby against. Secondly the plethora of applications for additional housing, both in and not in the Local Plan are understandably causing considerable disquiet and disruption in the village, notably the opportunistic proposal from Gladman for south of Wasperton Lane. I continue to welcome comments and concerns from residents so that I can feed these back into the Council and ensure that your voice is heard. And it is because of these comments and concerns that in combination with your Chairman, John Murphy, we have increased the pressure on ensuring the Council takes action to enforce planning conditions. We are in a better position than in January, but I would prefer to reach the situation where Planning Approval in the first place are picking up issues as change requests come in, meaning that we do not need to get Enforcement involved at all.

Looking to the future, key areas for the year ahead for WDC include:
Conclusion of the Local Plan as outlined above.

The development of a new car park strategy for Warwick and Leamington as Linen Street and Covent Garden Multi-Storey Car Parks reach the end of their useful life.

A new and smaller set of council offices will be built alongside the Covent Garden car park, enabling the current Riverside House (WDC's HQ) to be replaced by additional housing.

And proposals for a new football stadium for Leamington Football Club along with community facilities on the Europa Way/Gallows Hill site.

As always, myself and Alan Rhead are happy to take calls or emails throughout the year, and to meet residents at Parish Council meetings, to discuss any issues or questions that they may have.

Report by County Councillor

5 Cllr Les Caborn reported:

Budget

We have faced up to the challenges of reducing budgets by ensuring the county council is efficient as can be and have reduced directors from 10 to 4, and heads of service from 58 to 16 whilst reviewing every post. We share work with and work for other authorities.

Council tax set at 1.99%. +2% ring fenced for social care for 2017-18

We have straightforward objectives:

Building Warwickshire's economy by supporting and attracting business to grow jobs and investing in skills and education.

Looking after those who are vulnerable, by supporting people to be as independent as they can be for as long as possible .

Children's and Adult care and safeguarding

Opened MASH . The multi agency safeguarding hub pulls together police, health, social care and all partners to safeguard and protect all by operating together

Recruiting 40 additional children's social workers to reduce caseloads

Formed Children's Transformation Board to give seamless support to children and families from 0 to18

Built extra care housing for supported living for the vulnerable

Transformed domiciliary care to give more contact time

Formed joint enablement service with SWFT

Received £20 million over 3yrs from government extra funding for older people

Education

Invested extra £1m in home to school routes

89% of schools judged good or outstanding by Ofsted

Pupil performance in most areas better than national average

More SEN pupils educated at local schools

School estate being expanded

Infrastructure

Investment fund for infrastructure and town centre regeneration
Additional parkway stations at Ricoh, Nuneaton, Stratford and Kenilworth
Junction 12 improvements at Gaydon
Stanks Island Stoneleigh junctions improvements
Gritting routes maintained and pothole repairs
WCC apprentice hub rated in top 100 in U.K.

Road Safety

I have used my Councillor road safety budget for works in Budbrooke ,Norton Lindsey, Bishops Tachbrook ,Barford.
This will continue for 2017-18.

Health

We have launched our zero tolerance to suicide strategy
Redesigned and retendered our children's mental health services
Instigated white board - our 24/7 mental health help service for over16
Living Well with Dementia has achieved over 13000 dementia friends.
Redesigned our school health and wellbeing service.
Responsible for drugs, alcohol and smoking quitting and support.

Combined Authority

We are still an associate member working with but not part of CA

Sustainability and Transformation Plan

The STP is designed to get all partners in the health system working together , and reduce escalating costs to make health and social care affordable longer term.
So far in Warwickshire a difficult start but progress is being made somewhat slowly.
WCC is a vital partner in this along with our boroughs and districts.

Neighbourhood Watch

- 6 The Chairman reported:
- The post of Coordinator remained unfilled and until a volunteer was found, he would continue the role although the duties were minimal and declining.
 - It appeared to him that Neighbourhood Watch arrangements were being superseded by various forms of e-mail communication.
 - Recently Warwickshire Police had publicised their Community Messaging Service (CMS) (see Annex A).

Report by the Parochial Church Council

- 7 Fabric: Mr Carl Smith reported:
- The church roof had been cleared of moss and broken tiles replaced but the roof's condition would pose major problems in future and an architect's report stated that some 30m² needs attention.
 - The new lighting scheme has taken a lower priority than the roof and is on hold.
 - The nave would have LED lighting.
 - It is planned to replace the overhead heating.
 - A new ventilation scheme is being investigated and costed.
- 8 Churchyard: Mr Michael Porter reported:
- He thanked the JPC for its donation towards the upkeep.

- He also thanked those residents who, throughout the growing season, (apart from the first and last mows by a contractor) tended the churchyard.

Report of Wasperton Village Hall Amenities Committee

9 Mrs Diana Phillips reported:

The Village hall continues to be used on a regular basis, by the art group, for coffee stop and by local residents for functions. In addition, there have been fundraising events, The Wasperton Sale, Quiz, Village BBQ, Christmas Fayre and a couple of pantry sales. The 100 club continues with 3 draws a year and we welcome new members at any time. A thermometer to indicate the amount of money raised will be put up outside the hall, for all members of the village to see.

A management committee has been set up with members of the fundraising committee working alongside members of the PCC. The priority at the moment is to ensure the structural soundness of the building before undertaking any major improvements. This will all hopefully be funded in the future by grant matching the money the village has raised. The wall at the back is in the process of being repaired and for this a Warwick Rural West grant was obtained to cover 2/3rds of the cost.

New Local Plan

- 10 There was little new to say about this subject except that the Inspector's removal of site H47 could not easily be supported because it did not appear in the consultation documents. Cllr Phillips' advice was to support it notwithstanding.

Sand and Gravel Extraction

- 11 Cllr Les Caborn explained that, with the forthcoming elections placing WCC members in purdah from 24 Apr 17 until 18 May 17, nothing more could be decided at this time.
- 12 The meeting was told of the formation of the Sand and Gravel Action Group (SAGAG) which had raised £8k by public subscription to finance challenges to the scheme.

Other Matters Raised

- 13 If the Gladman housing scheme for Wellesbourne Road were to be withdrawn, would the land it covers revert to the Sand & Gravel extraction scheme? It is not yet known.
- 14 Attention was drawn to the inconvenience to travellers caused by the relocation of a bus stop in Barford some 100m from its bus shelter. Cllr Murphy agreed that opinion was universally opposed to it but, he suspected, little could be done to ameliorate the problem on the grounds of road traffic safety.
- 15 According to ['the BT broadband availability checker, Wasperton'](#) is to receive Fibre To The Premises (FTTP) facilities to enable the provision of super-fast broadband connection. No [commercial offerings appear however to be forthcoming so far](#).
- 16 A new social medium "Nextdoor" has made an appearance in Barford. Few at the meeting had any knowledge of it except that, once joined, it is difficult to leave.

Appointment of Chairman for 2016-17

- 17 Mr Mike Metcalfe was appointed Chairman for the ensuing year.

Closure of the Meeting

- 18 There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:25pm, thanking those who had attended.

Warwickshire Police Community Messaging Service (CMS)

The Community Messaging Service (CMS) is a self-registration scheme, which allows you to retain control of your personal information and to make changes to your account information and message preferences as well as to take holidays or unsubscribe from the scheme, for yourself.

Please click on the following link <https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/register> to register for our Community Messaging Service.

You will be asked to enter and to confirm your email address and then to prove that you are not a robotic spamming system by selecting some photographs, following a prompt when you have clicked on the 'I am not a robot' box.

Once this has been completed, you will be given a 5 digit PIN which you will need to make a note of.

Next, go to your email box and open the 'noreply' message which the system will have sent you and click on the link that it contains.

You will need to re-enter your email address, along with the 5-digit PIN and then to confirm.

You should now be registered and can log in to complete the rest of the process. Please note that there are two parts to the registration process. One is to create an account with your personal contact details. You will then need to click on the 'Email CMS Preferences' link to select which messages you wish to receive, the areas you wish to receive them for and the frequency with which you wish to receive them. There are 4 pages to complete along with a summary of the information at the end, and **each page contains useful guidance notes, printed in blue**, to help you.

Once you click submit at the end, you should receive an automated response to confirm that you have successfully registered.

A more detailed user guide is available if you require it at:

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/24163/Help-with-setting-up-your-CMS-Account>

Communities are better protected if they are informed of what is going on in the area, therefore please feel free to forward this email on to friends and family, within Warwickshire, to encourage them to register to receive the messages too.

For examples of previous messages, please follow the links down the side of the registration pages or click this link : <https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/search-CMS>

Remember - please don't hesitate to make us aware if you are having problems with the registration process as we are very happy to help you.